if so, the details of malfunctioning as reported, indicating action taken/proposed to be taken;

(b) whether it is a fact that Super Computer Department is rudderless, overstaffed. and without any concrete plan and programme; and

(c) whether Government propose to order an inquiry and revamp the entire Department?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) Yes, Sir. The news report did not talk about the malfunctioning of the India Meteorological Department but has ootn-mited on a few individual' experiences at junior working levels apparently without proper examinationi of the scientific background of the work.

(<b) No, Sir. The Supercomputer has been installed in India with a definite objective to develop models for providing medium range weather forecasts for India. A higfa-power Programme Implementation Committee guides its work programme. Its present staffing is need-based.

(c) Does not arise.

Setting up a Bureau for bringing NRI Scientists and Technologists

3266. DR. SANJAYA SINH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have set up a Bureau that would bring Non-Resident Indians (NRI)—Scientists and Technologists—in contact with the Indian Industries; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) and (b) The Government of India through the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, operates tw_0 programmes for utilizaiton of Non-resident Indian Scientists and Technologists:

(i) Transfer of Knowledge Through Expartriate Nationals (TOKTEN) programme Which is funded by UNDP and has been in operation since 1980. This programme is meant for undertaking projects with R&D organisations, Academic Institutions, Universities and also Industrial organisations —both public and private sectors.

(ii) Interface for Non-Resident Indian Scientists and Technologists (INRlST) programme is funded by the Government of India and has been in operation since 1990. The Objectives of the INRIST programme are given below:

—Promote environment for using NRI expertise in India;

—Compile & analyse information on NRI expertise available and publish a Directory of experts;

—Identify chiallenges/opportunities/ facilities in India for NRI professionals;

—Facilitate contact, rendezvouG, settlement & linkage of NRIs in India!;

—Act as a focal point for information concerning implementation of various activities.

—Explore possibilities of setting up R&D units or facilities of important nature to support manufacture of critical items and materials for industry and and social sectors;

—Involve NRI expertise in Mission areas, thrust and emerging areas of S&T as well as important social sectors of activities;

—Work for establishment of independent or joint ventures in selected areas in collaboration with NRIs.